

MARVEL

LEGACY

A MAN CALLED X PART 1

7



SOULE
NOTO

X^ASTONISHING X-MEN[®]



LONDON.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING.





HEY, ROGUE,
CALL ME X, OKAY?
NOT SURE I WANT TO
GO WITH 'THE ESTEEMED
PROFESSOR CHARLES
FRANCIS XAVIER'
JUST YET.

DOESN'T
FEEL
RIGHT.

I KNOW
YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.
I'LL ANSWER THEM,
IN TIME.

THE
MAIN THING IS
THAT I'M BACK.
REBORN.

BUT LIKE
MOST BIRTHS...

...IT COULDN'T
HAVE HAPPENED...

...WITHOUT
PAIN.

IT'S
NOT EASY
TO SAVE THE
WORLD.

ACT II

ASTONISHING X-MEN

A MAN CALLED X PART ONE

CHARLES XAVIER HAS RETURNED--FROM DEATH, FROM ENDLESS BANISHMENT ON THE ASTRAL PLANE--WITH THE HELP OF HIS X-MEN, HE HAS RETURNED.

BUT HE IS NOT THE SAME. HE HAS BECOME DECADES YOUNGER, AND HIS RETURN SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A PRICE - ONE OF THE MUTANTS WHO HELPED HIM ESCAPE DEATH: FANTOMEX.

PSYLOCKE, MYSTIQUE AND ROGUE TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'VE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE ASTRAL PLANE, WHILE ELSEWHERE IN LONDON, THE FINAL STRIKE FROM THE DEFEATED SHADOW KING RAGES THROUGH THE STREETS: A PSYCHIC INFECTION RAVAGING ANYONE IT TOUCHES, INCLUDING BISHOP. LOGAN AND GAMBIT DEAL WITH AN ENRAGED, OUT-OF-CONTROL ARCHANGEL, WHILE THE HUMAN AUTHORITIES TAKE STEPS TOWARD CLEANSING THE CITY OF ITS MUTANT PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

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TYPHOON 2,
STATUS REPORT! WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

THOM



TYPHOON 1'S
DONE FOR. ARCHANGEL
HIT THE TAIL SECTION,
SLICED RIGHT THROUGH IT.
PILOT MANAGED TO EJECT,
BUT THE PLANE'S
SPLASHED.

AND NOW THE
BLOODY MUTANT'S
COMING AROUND FOR
AN ATTACK RUN
ON ME.

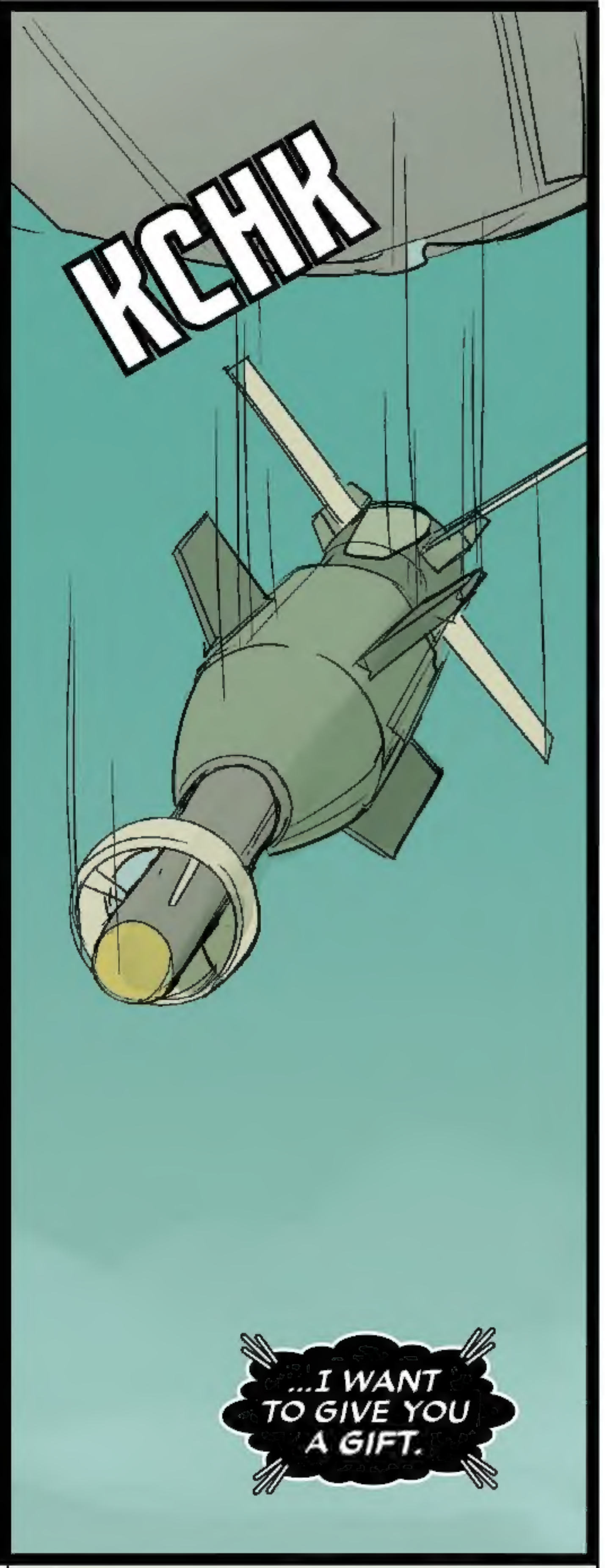
YOU ARE
CLEARED TO
ENGAGE, TYPHOON 2. ALL
DEFENSIVE MEASURES
AUTHORIZED.



APPRECIATE THAT,
CONTROL, BUT I CAN
SEE HOW QUICKLY THE PSYCHIC
INFECTION'S SPREADING DOWN
THERE. IF I'M GOING TO STOP
IT, I NEED TO DROP THIS
PAYLOAD NOW.

NOT SURE
I CAN BEAT THE
BIRD-MAN, BUT I
CAN DAMN WELL
COMPLETE MY
MISSION.

JUST NEED
A FEW MORE
SECONDS.





I'M...I'M
STILL *HIM*...
THE ARCHANGEL...
BUT I'M *ME*.
WARREN.

I
HAVE THE
POWER, BUT NOT
THE... COLDNESS.
NOT THE
RAGE.

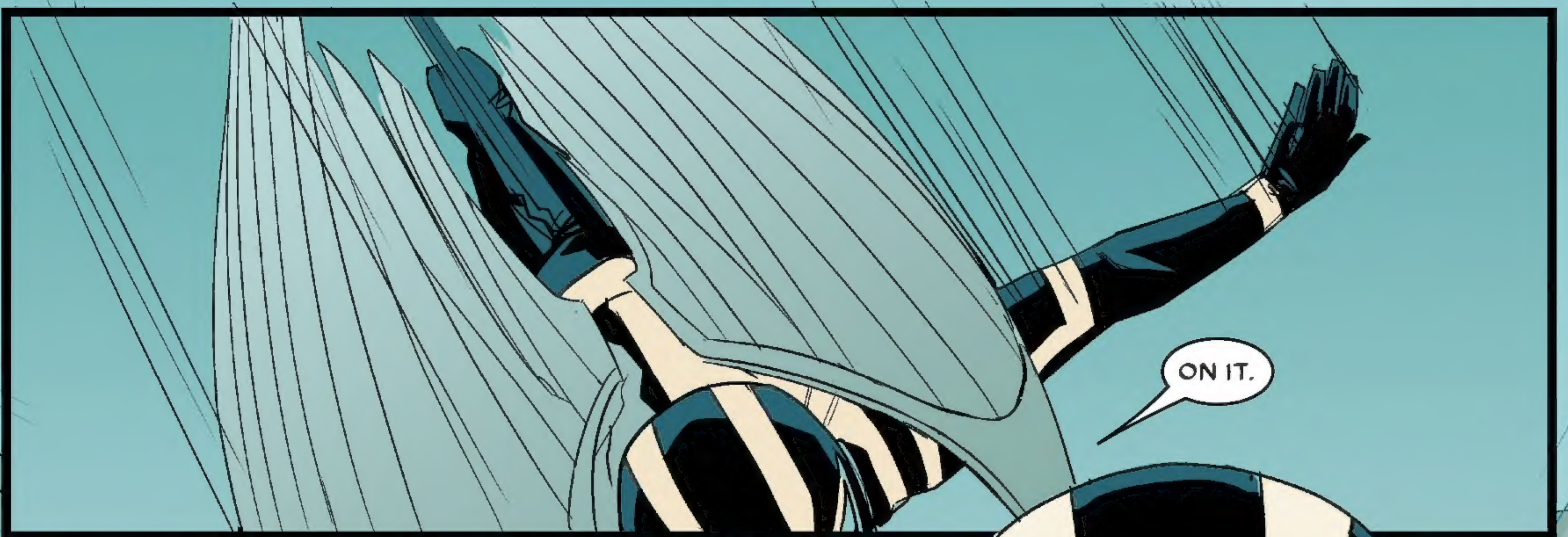
I CAN'T
EVEN FEEL
HIM ANYMORE. IT'S
LIKE HE'S JUST...
GONE.

MY GIFT
TO YOU. YOU
EARNED IT,
FRIEND.

BUT PLEASE,
WARREN...



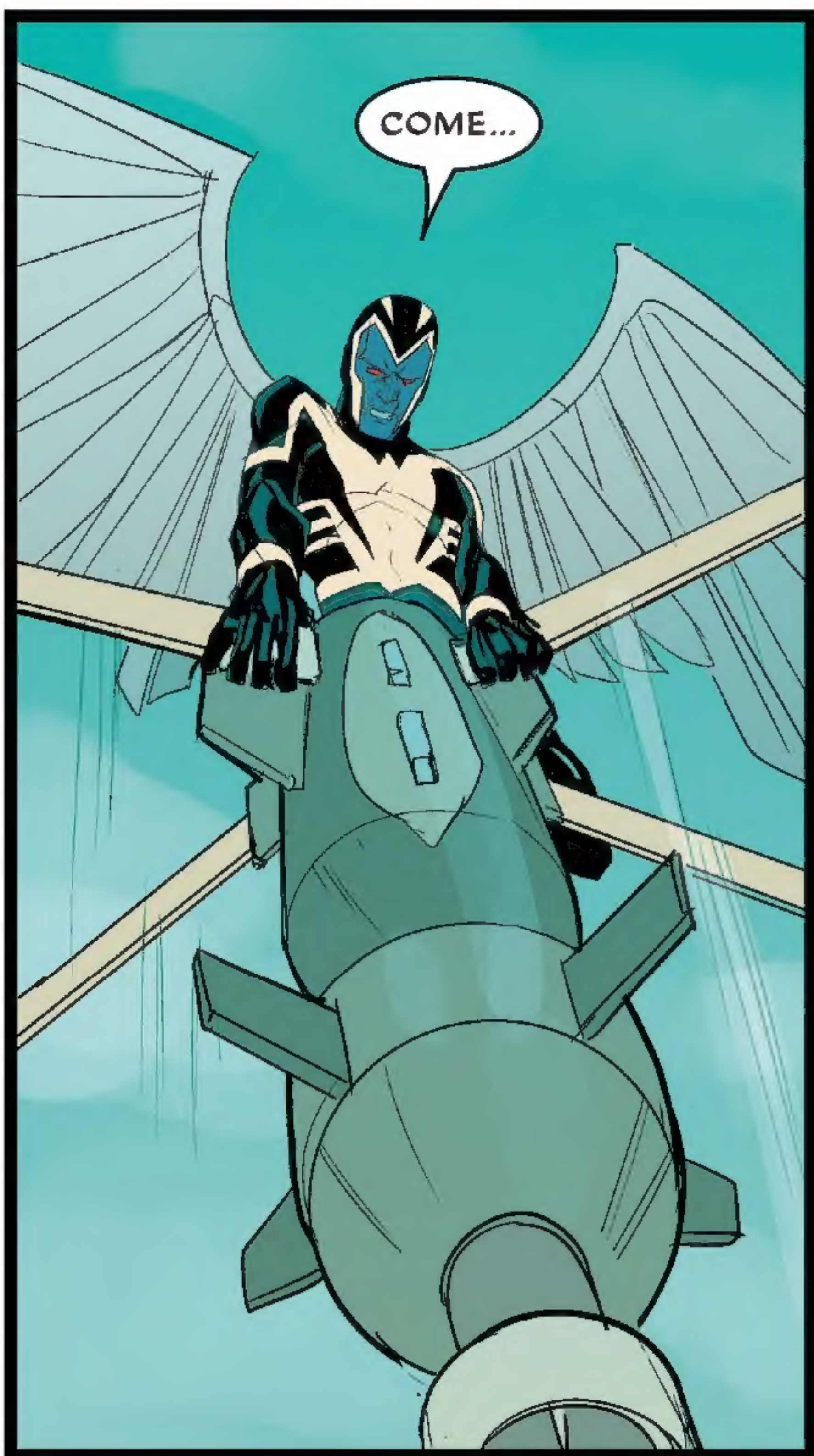
...WE'RE
RUNNING OUT OF
TIME HERE.



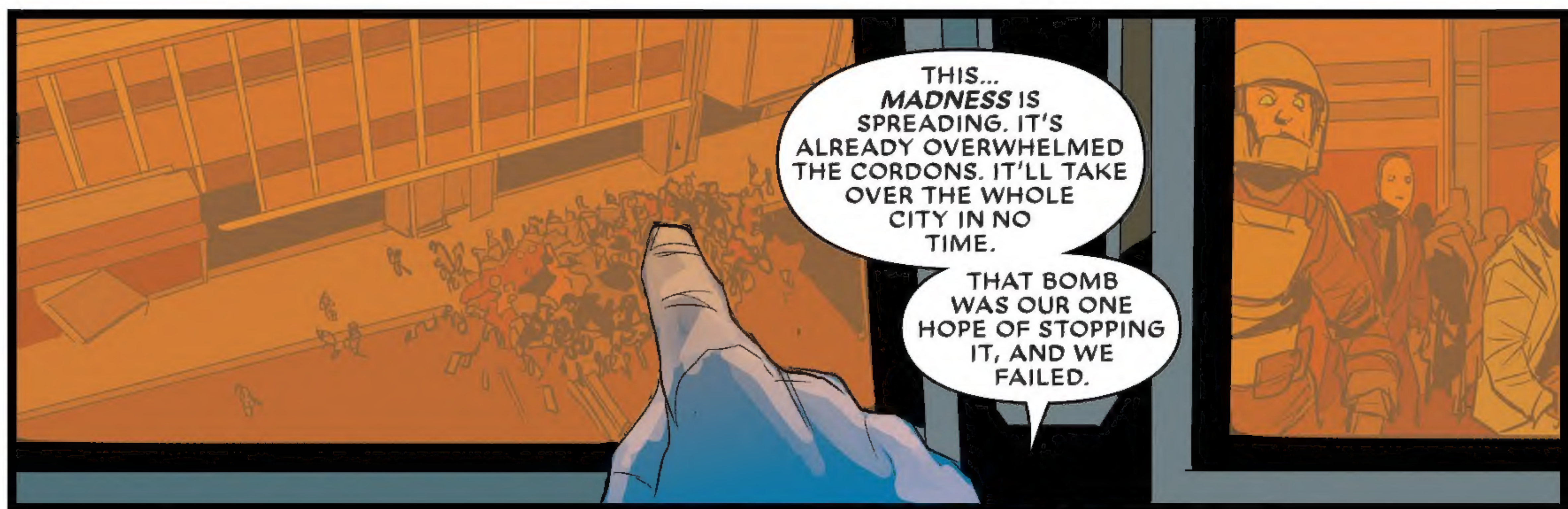
ON IT.



NNNGH



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.
SUPERHUMAN CRISIS
COMMAND CENTER.





YOU SAY
THAT LIKE IT'S A
BAD THING.

WHO...
HOW...



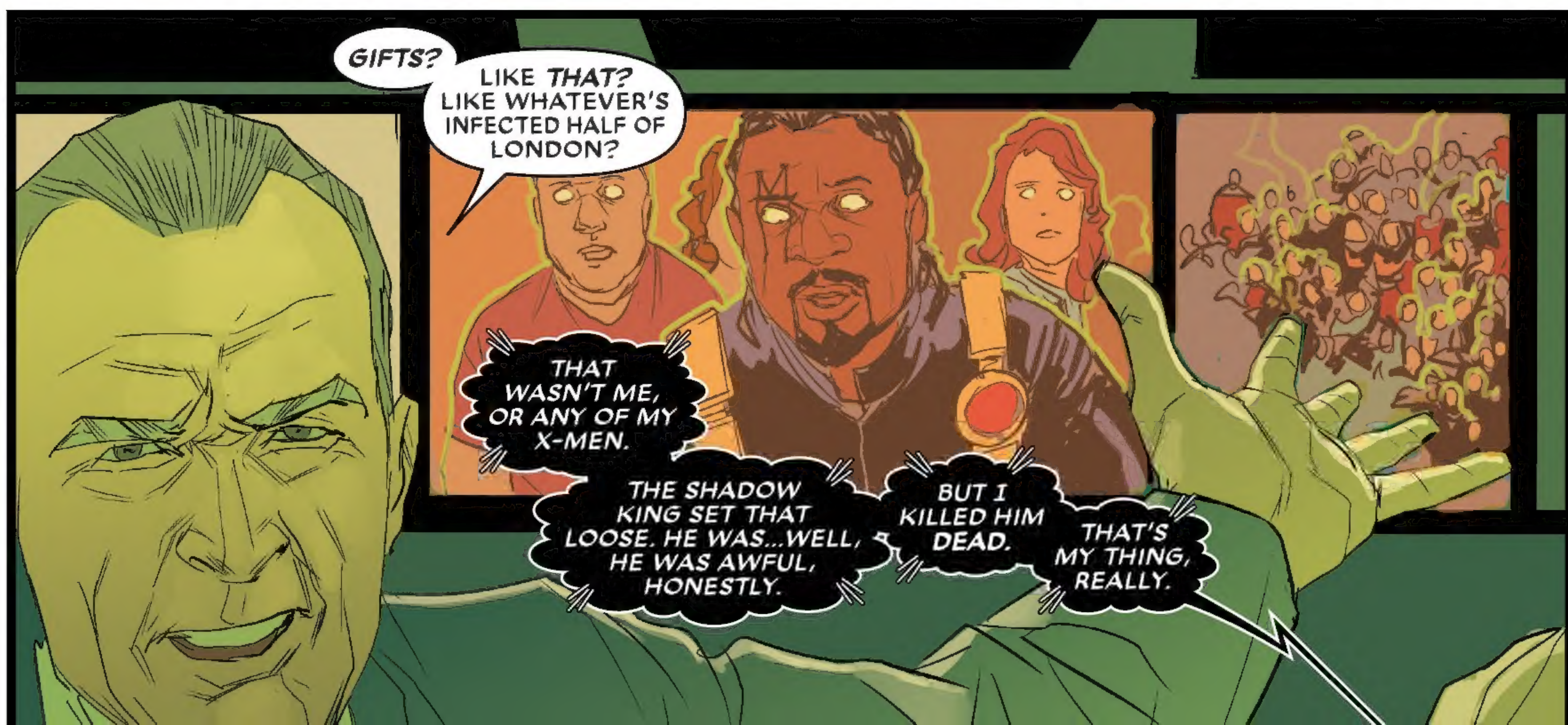
STOP THERE!
DON'T MOVE AN
INCH!

OH, PLEASE.
YOU'RE BEING
RIDICULOUS.



EVERYTHING
WILL BE FINE,
COMMANDER KEENE.
MY NAME IS X, AND
I'M NOT HERE TO
HURT YOU.

IN FACT, I
COME BEARING
GIFTS.



GIFTS?

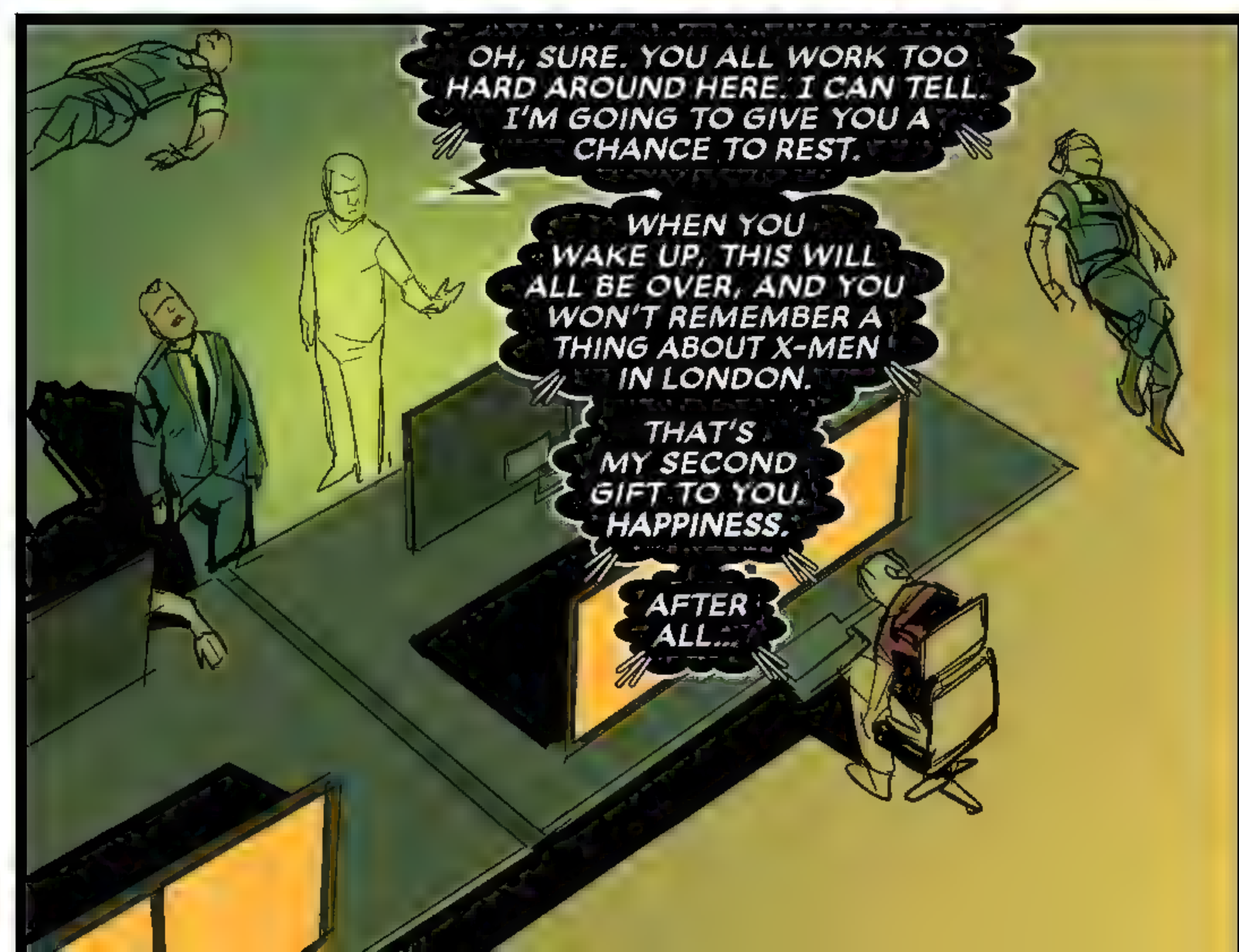
LIKE THAT?
LIKE WHATEVER'S
INFECTED HALF OF
LONDON?

THAT
WASN'T ME,
OR ANY OF MY
X-MEN.

THE SHADOW
KING SET THAT
LOOSE. HE WAS...WELL,
HE WAS AWFUL,
HONESTLY.

BUT I
KILLED HIM
DEAD.

THAT'S
MY THING,
REALLY.





THERE.
THIS WILL
ALL BE OVER
SOON.

OVER? YOU
HAVEN'T TOLD
US ANYTHING. YOU
HAVEN'T GIVEN US ANY
REASON TO THINK YOU'RE
ANYTHING BUT ONE OF
THE SHADOW KING'S
TRICKS.



YOU KNOW
I'M NOT, RAVEN.
YOU SAW ME KILL THE
SHADOW KING. YOU
HELPED ME
DO IT.

DID I?
I'M STARTING
TO THINK I JUST
HELPED YOU KILL
FANTOMEX.

NO. HE'S FINE--
ALTHOUGH HE HAD
TO STAY BEHIND IN THE
ASTRAL PLANE. IT WAS
THE ONLY WAY I COULD
RETURN. A TRADE.
HIM FOR ME.

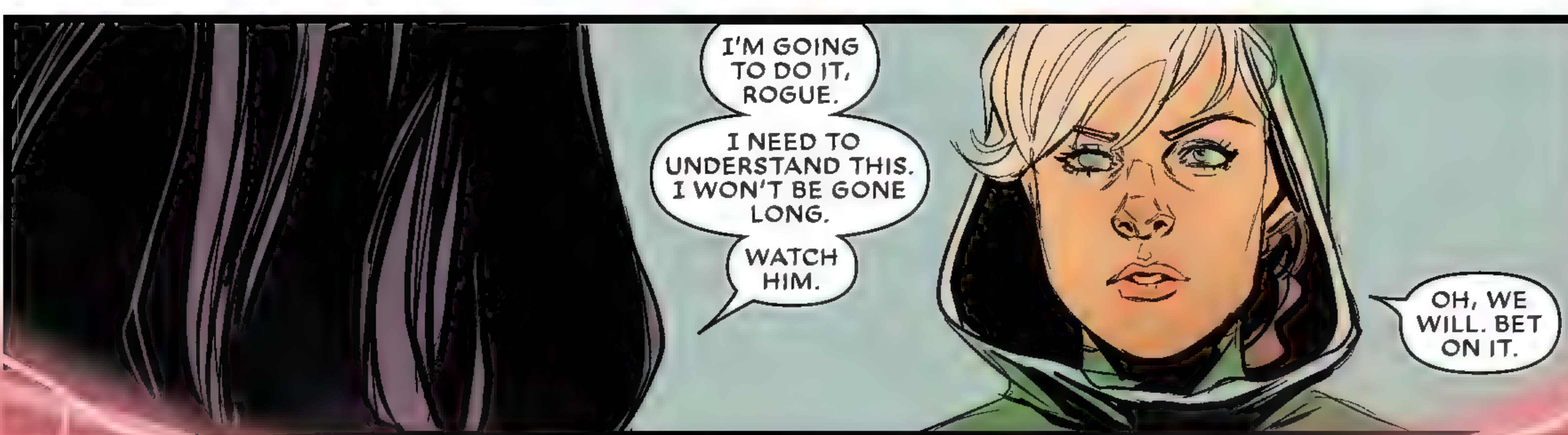
FLESH FOR
FLESH.



DID HE
HAVE ANY SAY
IN THIS?

ABSOLUTELY!
HE SAW IT AS A
GIFT. IT WAS MY FIRST
GIFT, TO THANK HIM
FOR ALL HIS HELP.
HE WELCOMED
IT.

ASK HIM
YOURSELF, BETSY.
GO INTO THE ASTRAL
PLANE. I HAVE
THINGS HANDLED
HERE.



I'M GOING
TO DO IT,
ROGUE.

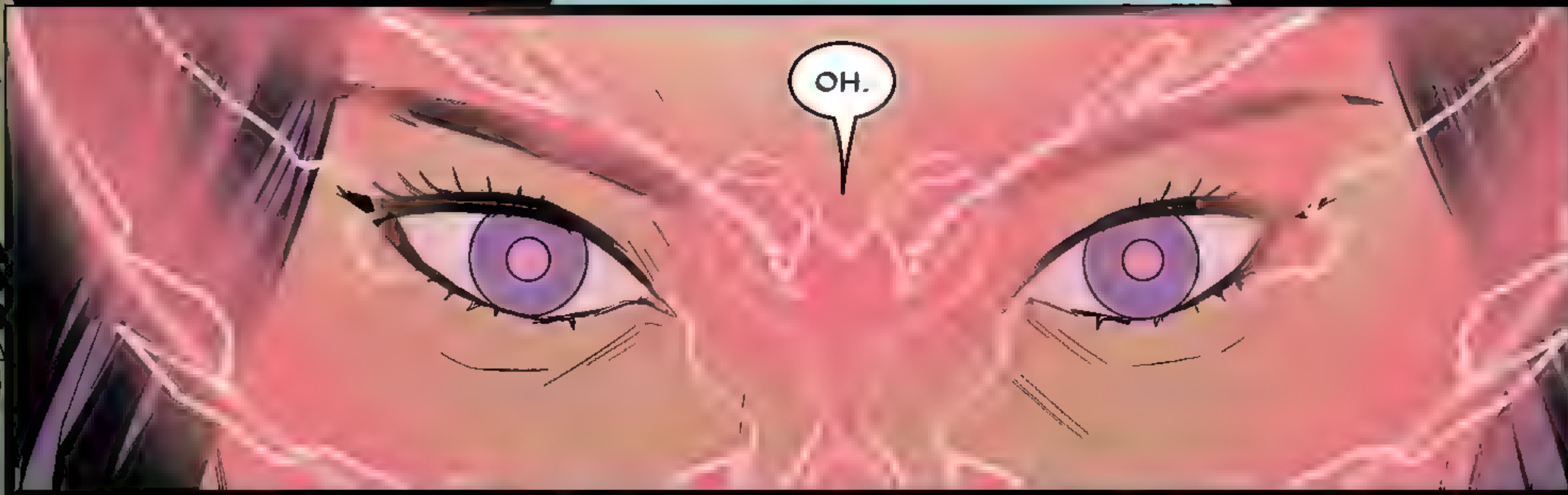
I NEED TO
UNDERSTAND THIS.
I WON'T BE GONE
LONG.

WATCH
HIM.

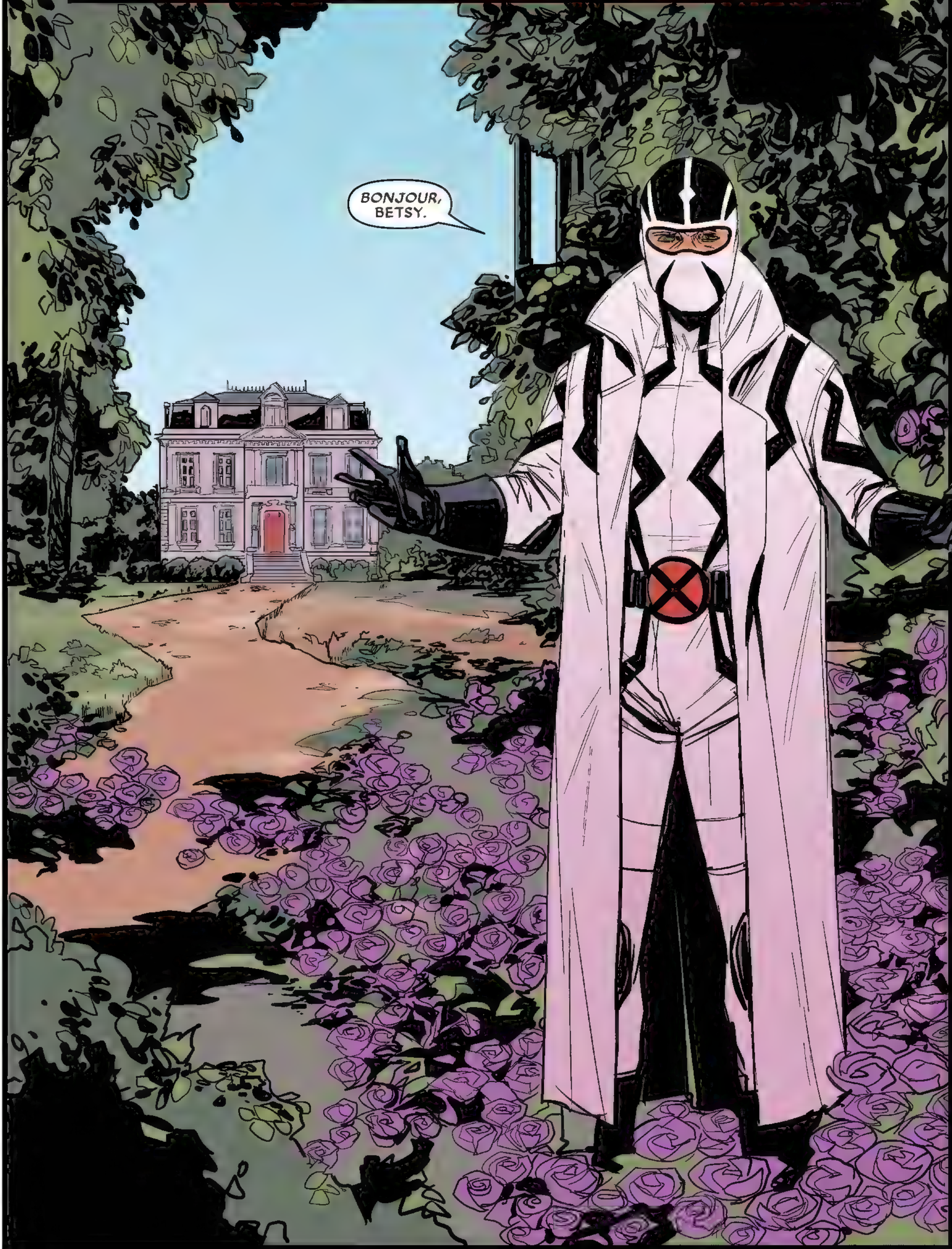
OH, WE
WILL. BET
ON IT.

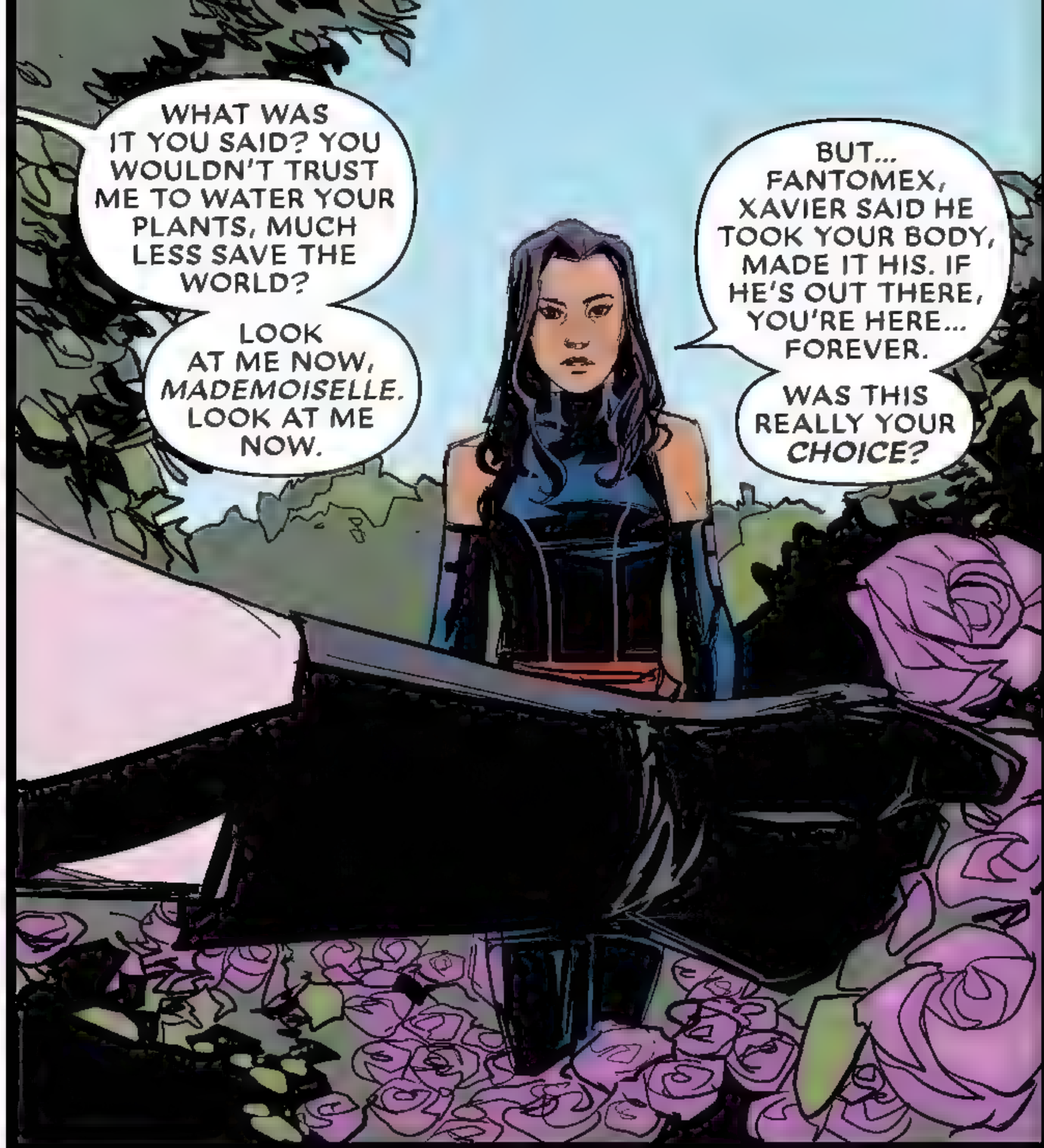


RIGHT,
THEN.



BONJOUR,
BETSY.





WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID? YOU WOULDN'T TRUST ME TO WATER YOUR PLANTS, MUCH LESS SAVE THE WORLD?

LOOK AT ME NOW, MADMOISELLE. LOOK AT ME NOW.

BUT... FANTOMEX, XAVIER SAID HE TOOK YOUR BODY, MADE IT HIS. IF HE'S OUT THERE, YOU'RE HERE... FOREVER.

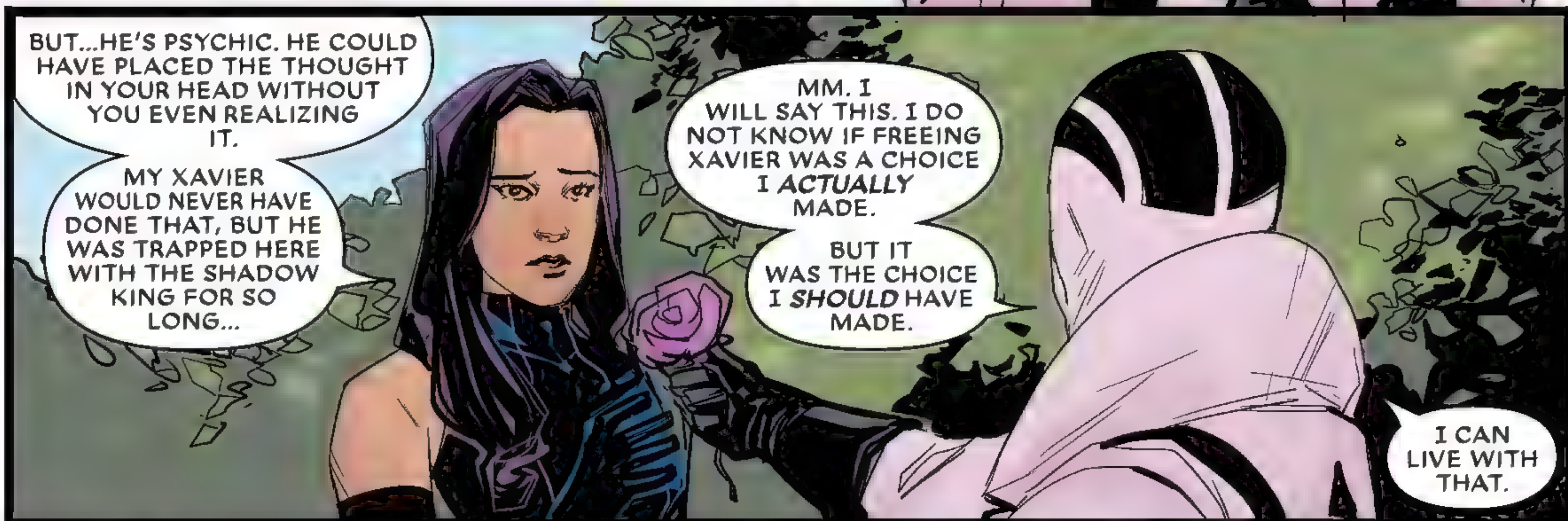
WAS THIS REALLY YOUR CHOICE?



I WAS **NOTHING** OUT THERE, BETSY. BOUNCING FROM ONE MISDEED TO THE NEXT. KILLING, WHORING, THIEVING...A BEAST, REALLY.

WHEREAS CHARLES XAVIER... A GREAT MAN. **MANY** WOULD PICK HIM TO LIVE OVER ME, GIVEN THE CHOICE.

WELL, I WAS GIVEN THE CHOICE, AND AS IT TURNS OUT... I AM ONE OF THE MANY.



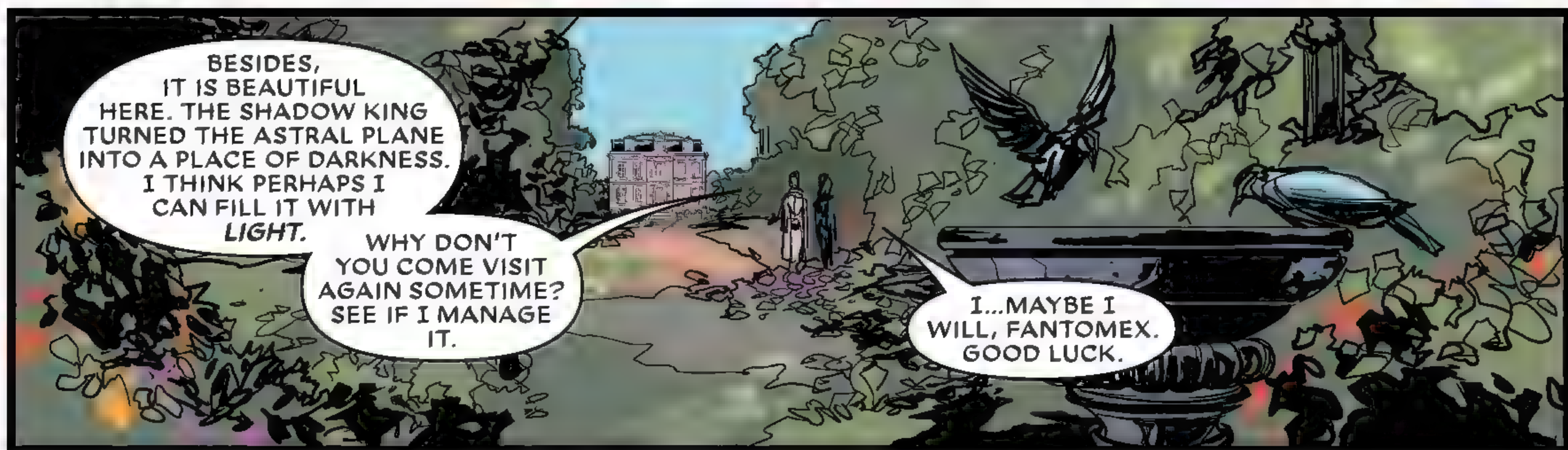
BUT...HE'S PSYCHIC. HE COULD HAVE PLACED THE THOUGHT IN YOUR HEAD WITHOUT YOU EVEN REALIZING IT.

MY XAVIER WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE THAT, BUT HE WAS TRAPPED HERE WITH THE SHADOW KING FOR SO LONG...

MM. I WILL SAY THIS. I DO NOT KNOW IF FREEING XAVIER WAS A CHOICE I **ACTUALLY** MADE.

BUT IT WAS THE CHOICE I **SHOULD** HAVE MADE.

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.



BESIDES, IT IS BEAUTIFUL HERE. THE SHADOW KING TURNED THE ASTRAL PLANE INTO A PLACE OF DARKNESS. I THINK PERHAPS I CAN FILL IT WITH **LIGHT**.

WHY DON'T YOU COME VISIT AGAIN SOMETIME? SEE IF I MANAGE IT.

I...MAYBE I WILL, FANTOMEX. GOOD LUCK.



MERCI, CHERIE.



MERCI.



YOU
EVER SEE
ANYTHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE,
LOGAN?

YOU THINK
IT'S SOMETHIN'
GOOD?

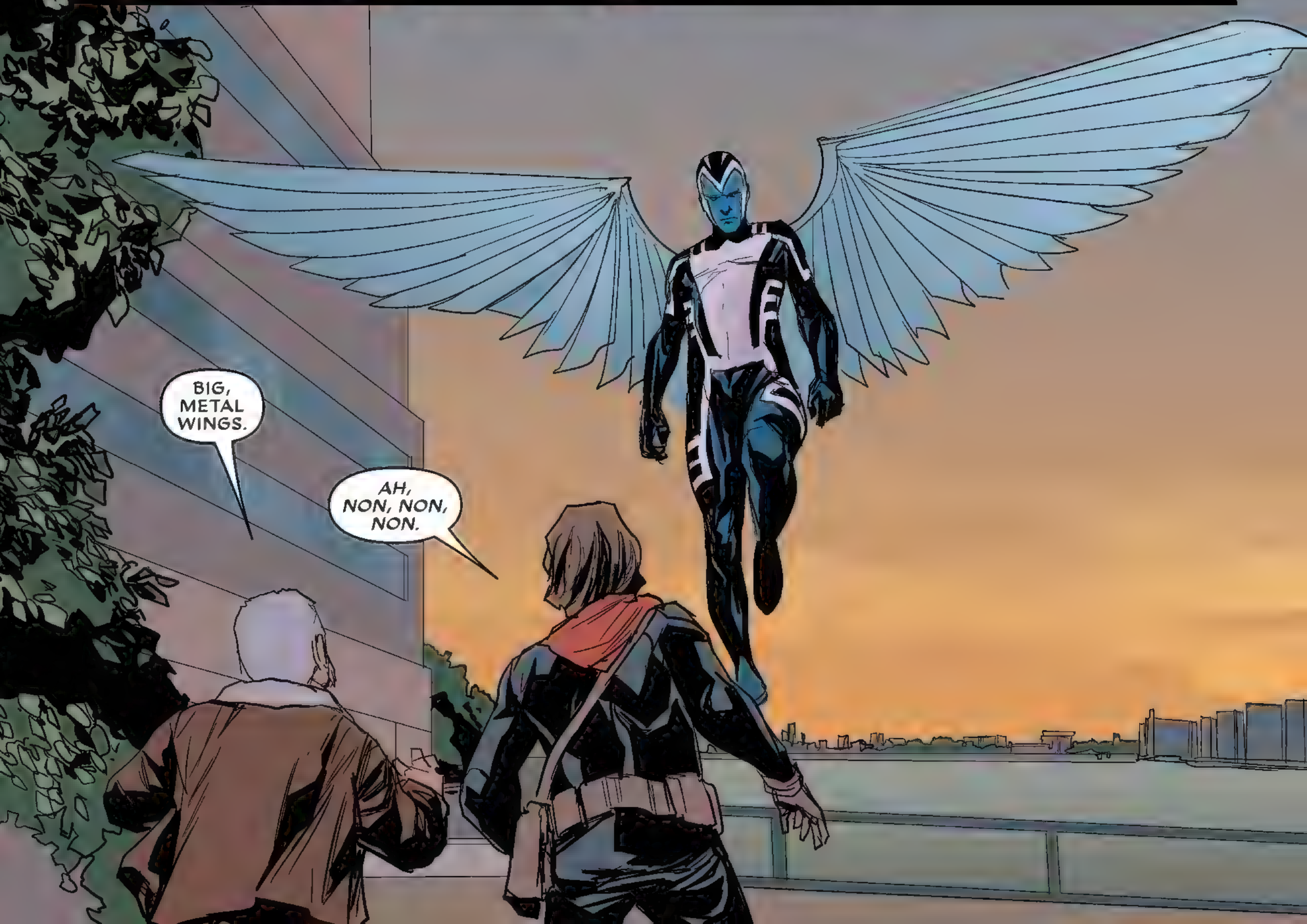
NO,
LEBEAU. AND
THAT'S SAYING
SOMETHING.

IS IT EVER
SOMETHING
GOOD?



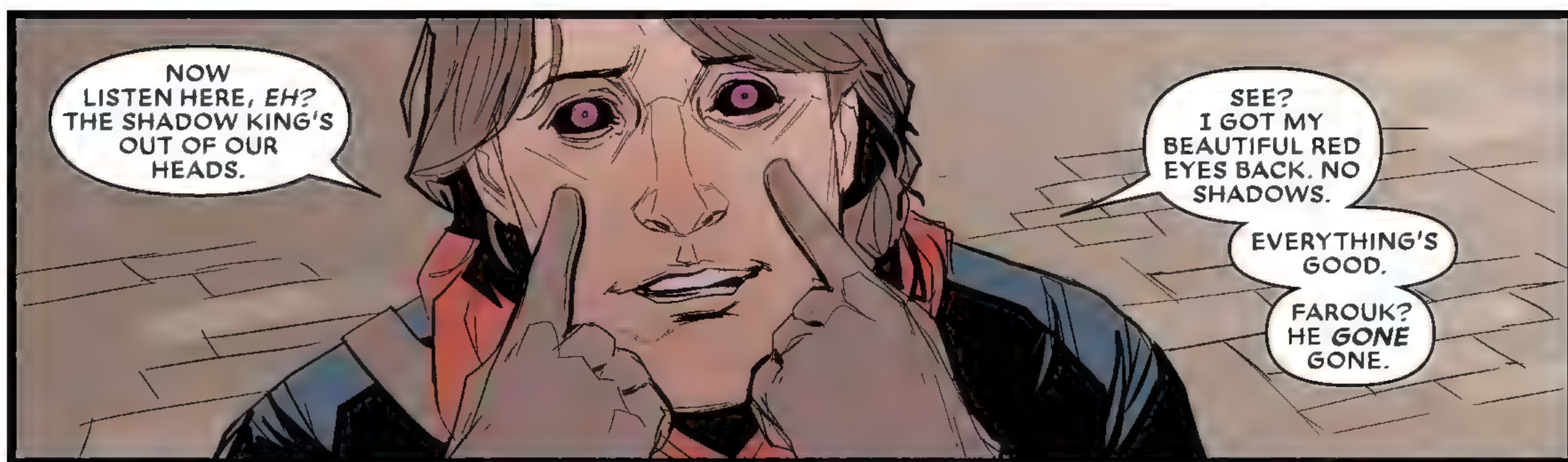
HEY, YOU
HEAR THAT?
SOUNDS
LIKE...

WINGS,
GAMBIT.



BIG,
METAL
WINGS.

AH,
NON, NON,
NON.



NOW LISTEN HERE, EH? THE SHADOW KING'S OUT OF OUR HEADS.

SEE? I GOT MY BEAUTIFUL RED EYES BACK. NO SHADOWS.

EVERYTHING'S GOOD.

FAROUK? HE GONE GONE.



HE AIN'T LISTENING. WARREN'S GONE. THAT'S ALL ARCHANGEL. GET READY TO FIGHT.

DIDN'T GO SO WELL LAST TIME. YOU GOT ANY TIPS, LIKE?

TIPS? HE'S THE ANGEL OF DEATH, GAMBIT. NO. I HAVE NO TIPS. JUST...SURVIVE.

SNIKT

SNIKT



ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT A TIP. MAYBE YOU COULD BOTH JUST... LIKE...

...CHILL OUT.

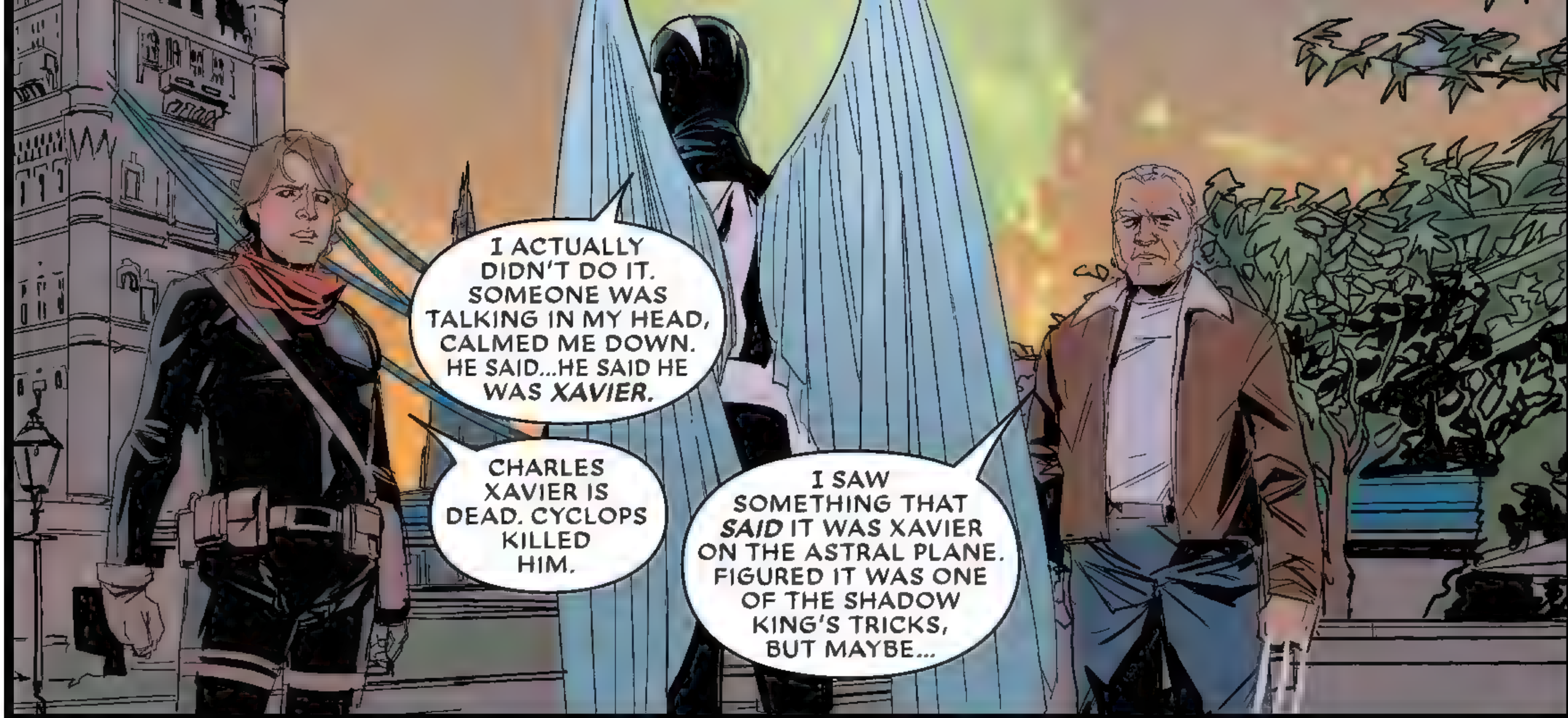


WAIT...WHAT IS THIS NOW? WARREN? THAT YOU?

YUP. ALL ME. I'M IN CONTROL.

HUH. FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO YOU WERE LOOKING TO KILL ANYTHING THAT MOVED. NOW YOU'RE THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS?

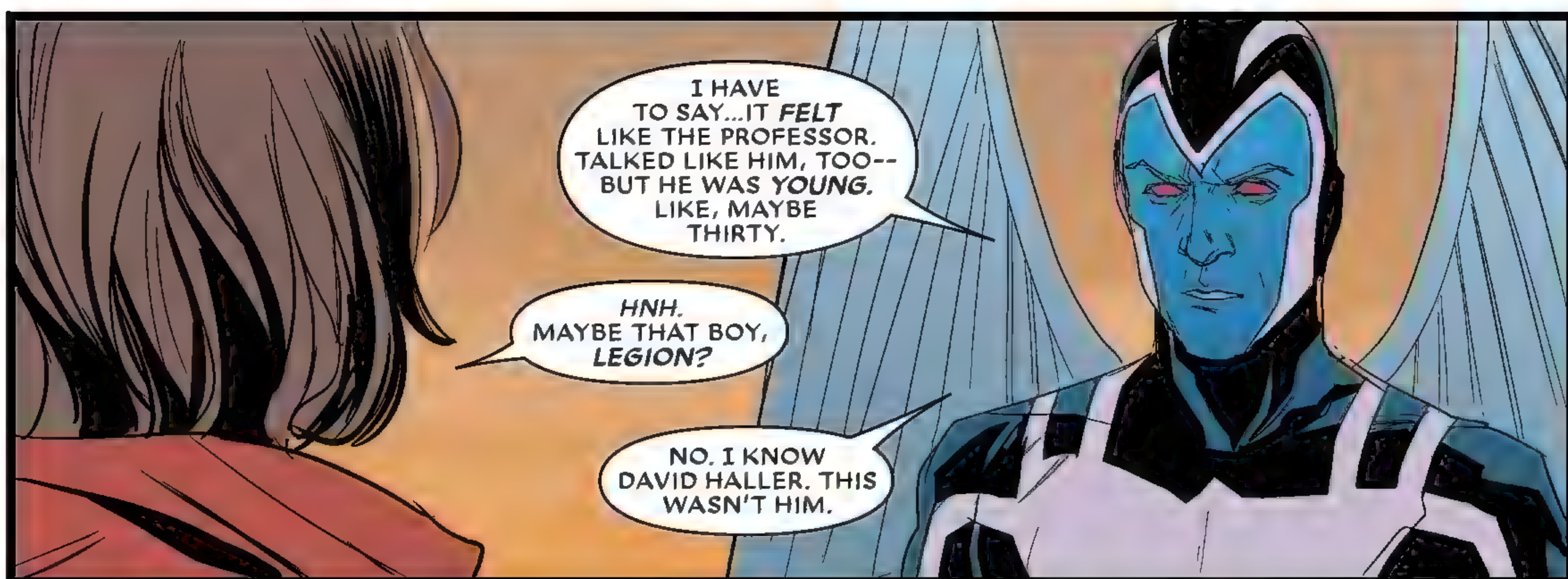
HOW 'BOUT YOU TELL US HOW THE HELL YOU GOT BACK IN CONTROL, AND MAYBE I'LL JUST KEEP MY CLAWS OUT IN THE MEANTIME.



I ACTUALLY DIDN'T DO IT. SOMEONE WAS TALKING IN MY HEAD, CALMED ME DOWN. HE SAID...HE SAID HE WAS XAVIER.

CHARLES XAVIER IS DEAD. CYCLOPS KILLED HIM.

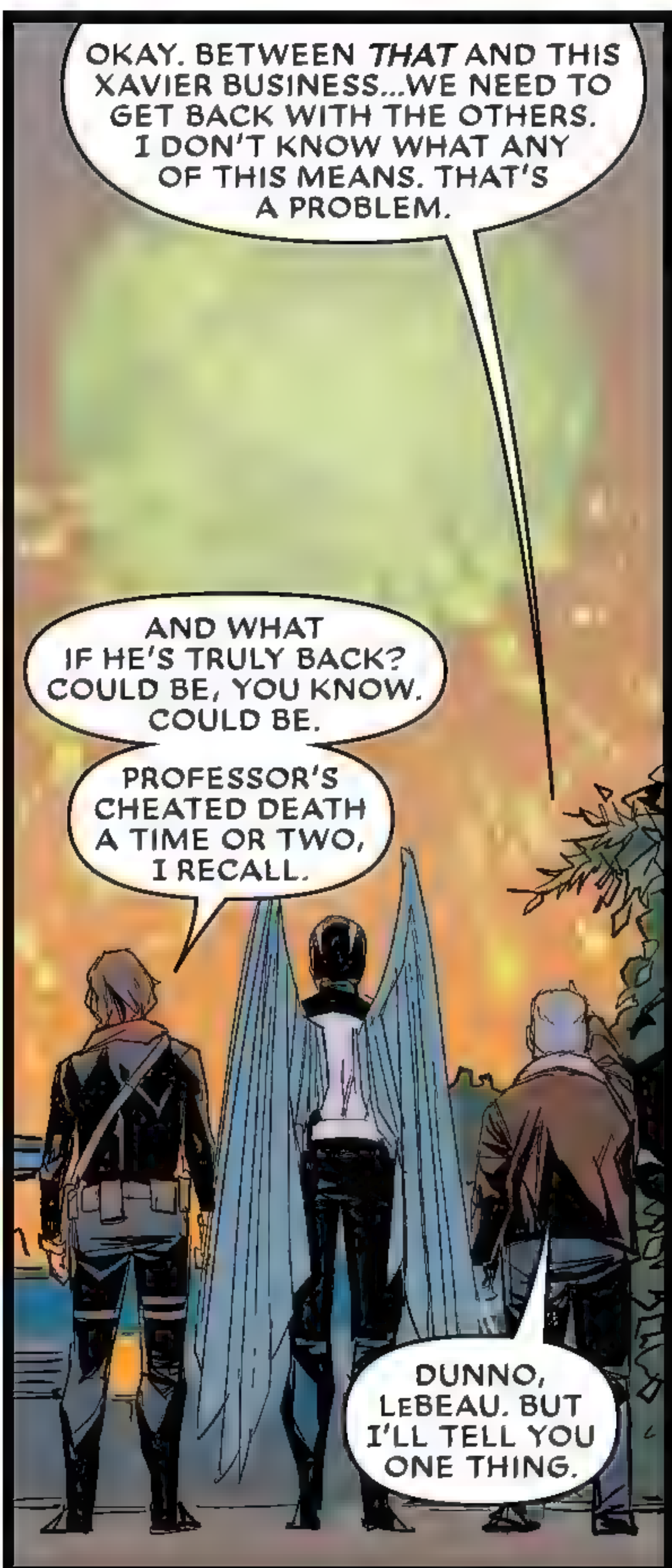
I SAW SOMETHING THAT SAID IT WAS XAVIER ON THE ASTRAL PLANE. FIGURED IT WAS ONE OF THE SHADOW KING'S TRICKS, BUT MAYBE...



I HAVE TO SAY...IT FELT LIKE THE PROFESSOR. TALKED LIKE HIM, TOO--- BUT HE WAS YOUNG. LIKE, MAYBE THIRTY.

HNH. MAYBE THAT BOY, LEGION?

NO. I KNOW DAVID HALLER. THIS WASN'T HIM.



OKAY. BETWEEN *THAT* AND THIS XAVIER BUSINESS...WE NEED TO GET BACK WITH THE OTHERS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF THIS MEANS. THAT'S A PROBLEM.

AND WHAT IF HE'S TRULY BACK? COULD BE, YOU KNOW. COULD BE.

PROFESSOR'S CHEATED DEATH A TIME OR TWO, I RECALL.

DUNNO, LEBEAU. BUT I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING.

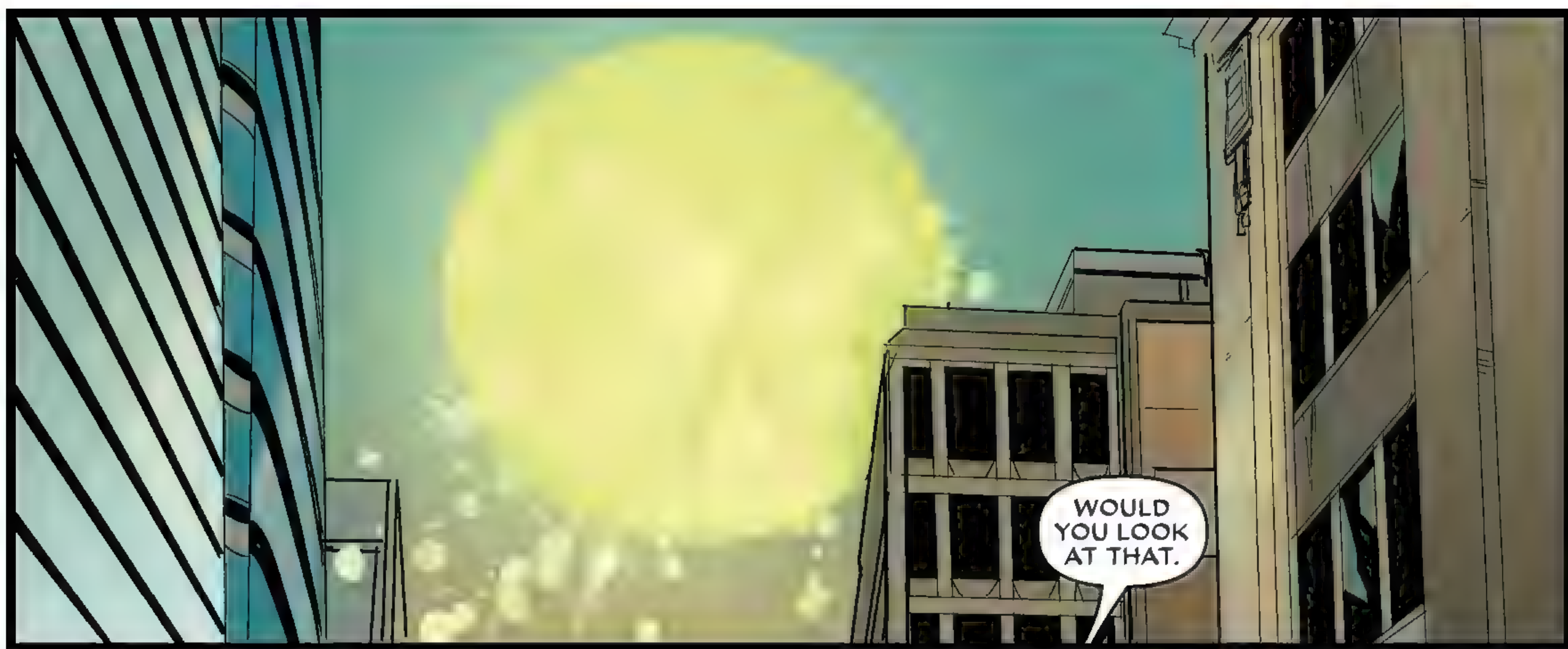


YOUNG, OLD...WHATEVER. WE NEED TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING DEEPER.

I'VE DIED MORE TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER. HUNDREDS. MAYBE THOUSANDS.



DON'T THINK I EVER ONCE CAME BACK THE SAME.





SEE? I TOLD YOU FANTOMEX WAS FINE, BETSY. HE HAS A **PURPOSE**, EVEN...MAYBE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE. HE'S HAPPY. YOU FELT IT, RIGHT?

YES. YES...I DID.

EXACTLY. **PURPOSE**...MY GIFT TO HIM. THE LEAST I COULD DO IN RETURN FOR HIM GIVING ME MY LIFE BACK.



WHAT ABOUT **GAMBIT**? YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T **SAVE** HIM. DOES THAT MEAN...IS HE DEAD?

NOT AT ALL. IN FACT...



THERE HE IS NOW, WITH WARREN AND LOGAN. GOOD.

NOW, IF WE CAN JUST FIND **BISHOP**, I HAVE GIFTS FOR ALL OF YOU. YOU ALL DID SO MUCH FOR ME.

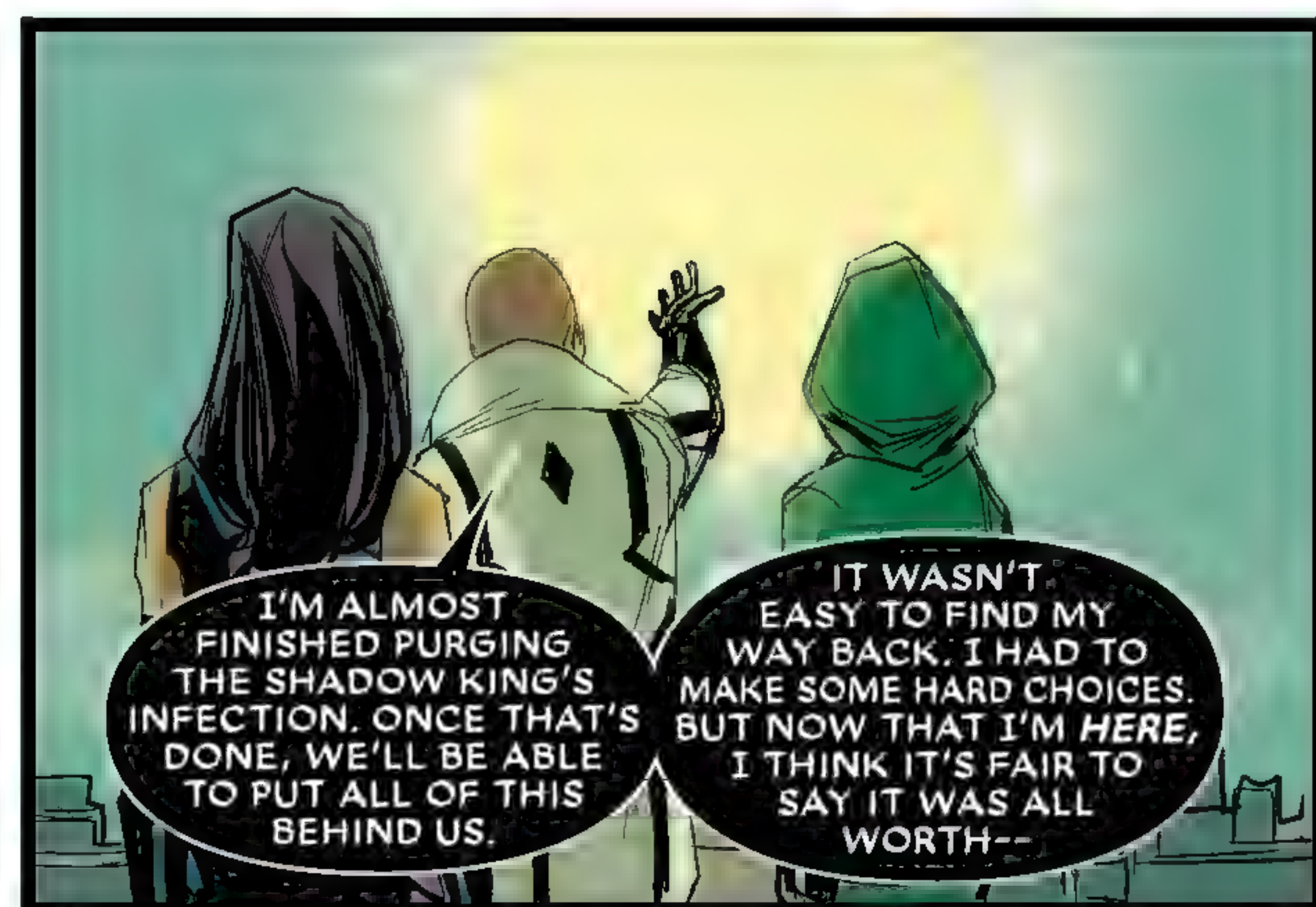


SEARCH TERM LOCATED.

AND?

A GREEN SUN APPEARING ABOVE LONDON IN THE EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY IS AN INCITING INCIDENT OF THE MINDKILLER APOCALYPSE.

RESULTS IN STERILIZED EARTHS ACROSS NINETY-SEVEN PERCENT OF TIMELINES IN WHICH IT OCCURS.

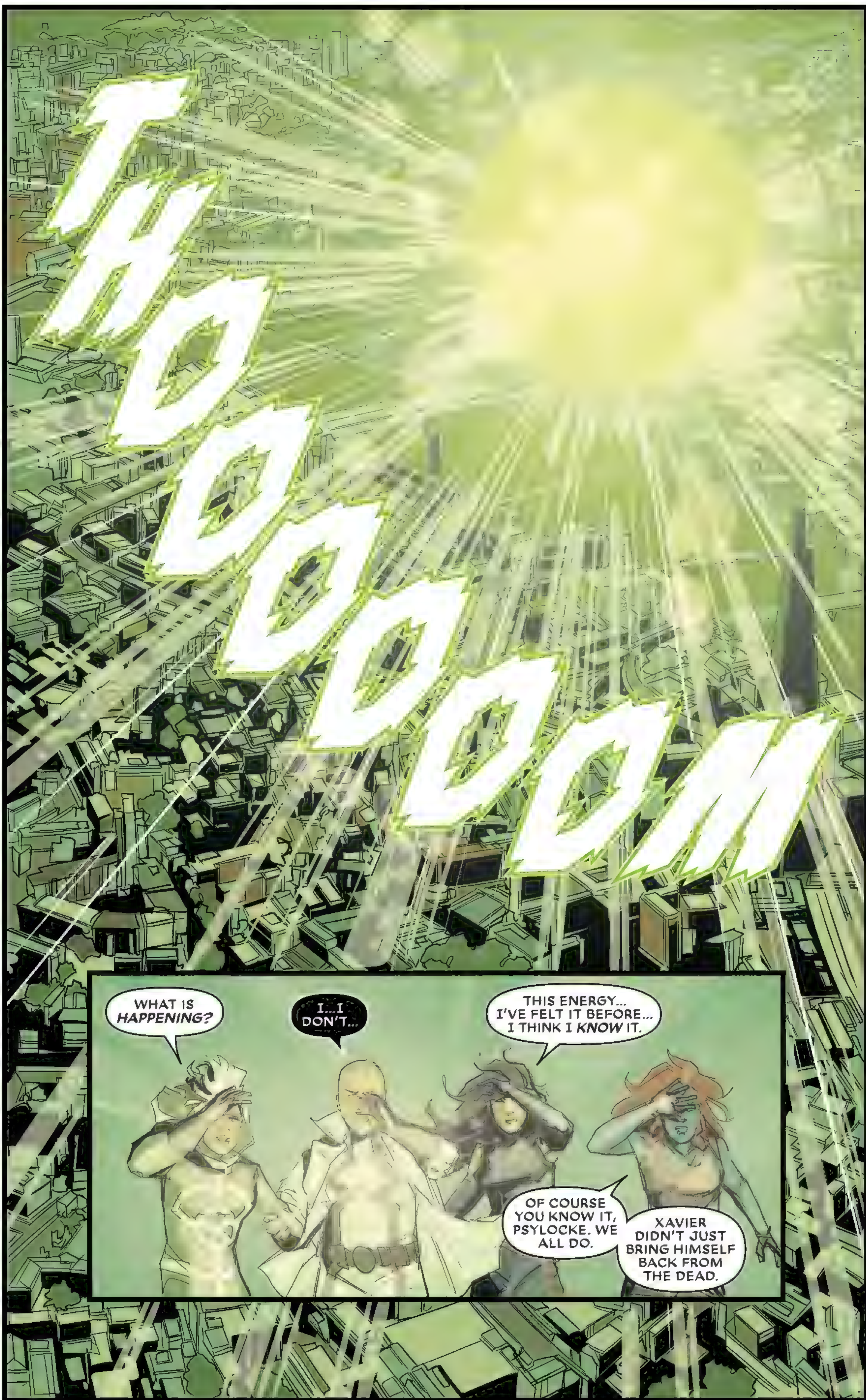


I'M ALMOST FINISHED PURGING THE SHADOW KING'S INFECTION. ONCE THAT'S DONE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PUT ALL OF THIS BEHIND US.

IT WASN'T EASY TO FIND MY WAY BACK. I HAD TO MAKE SOME HARD CHOICES. BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY IT WAS ALL WORTH--

WAIT.





WHAT IS
HAPPENING?

I...I
DON'T...

THIS ENERGY...
I'VE FELT IT BEFORE...
I THINK I KNOW IT.

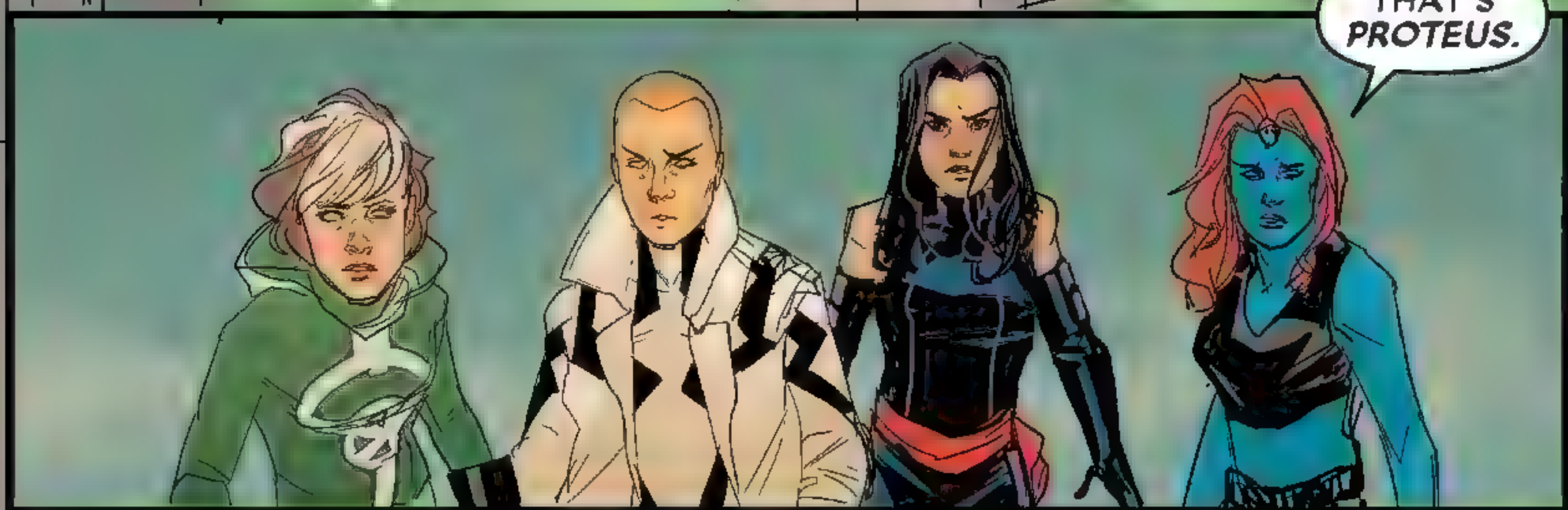
OF COURSE
YOU KNOW IT,
PSYLOCKE. WE
ALL DO.

XAVIER
DIDN'T JUST
BRING HIMSELF
BACK FROM
THE DEAD.

AM I...
AM I...

DEATH
CAME WITH
HIM.

THAT'S
PROTEUS.



...FREE?

**TO BE
CONTINUED...**

HOUSE OF X

This HOUSE OF X I'd like to do something I wanted to do a while back but didn't get the chance to... introduce you to Associate Editor Darren Shan. He's been working on some absolutely great books over here. I've asked him to step in and talk about some projects he's wrapping up and some he's ready to unleash:

Hi, X-Fans! Ever since joining the X-Men Group eight months ago (WHAT?!), the old adage "Hope you survive the experience" has never felt more appropriate. It's been a whirlwind of projects that I'm really proud of and excited for you to read! We're winding down titles like GENERATION X, JEAN GREY and ICEMAN...and although that can be a sad thing, I can't wait for you guys to see how we close them out. Each of these books has a truly special ending, some of which leave these characters in new places and situations! But as some doors close, new ones open!

As for new things, this month we have the launch of fan-favorite X-couple ROGUE & GAMBIT by Kelly Thompson (HAWKEYE) and Pere Pérez (DEADPOOL VS. PUNISHER) and LEGION by Peter Milligan (X-STATIX) and Wilfredo Torres (MOON KNIGHT).

But it doesn't end there. In March, we've got WEAPON H by Greg Pak (PLANET HULK, WEAPON X) and Cory Smith (X-MEN BLUE, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN). And surely by now you've heard about NEW MUTANTS by Matthew Rosenberg and Adam Gorham! Four new series, each with their own distinct flavor!

And speaking of Matthew Rosenberg... this month also sees the finale of PHOENIX RESURRECTION! Get ready to cry for that one, folks!

-Darren Shan

✓ PHOENIX RESURRECTION:

The Phoenix Force is back! But what does it want? And does this mean the return of the adult Jean Grey?
Issue #1 on sale now!
Issues #2-5 on sale weekly in January!

✓ X-MEN GOLD:

Nightcrawler...prisoner of the Dartayan Empire! Can he escape?!
Issue #18 on sale now!

✓ X-MEN BLUE:

The Cross Time Capers continues!
Issue #18 on sale now!

✓ WEAPON X:

Sabretooth takes on the Nuke Platoon with his ally...the original Nuke?!
Issue #13!

✓ ALL-NEW WOLVERINE:

Wolverine and her family versus the Orphans of X!
Issue #29!

✓ GENERATION X:

Jubilee and the original Gen X take on Monet!
Issue #85 on sale now!

✓ JEAN GREY:

Phoenix Resurrection tie-in! It's all been leading to this!
Issue #11!

✓ CABLE:

Cable and the Newer Mutants are overwhelmed! Has Gideon won?
Issue #153!

✓ ICEMAN:

Iceman vs. Daken...Round 2!
Issue #9!

✓ OLD MAN LOGAN:

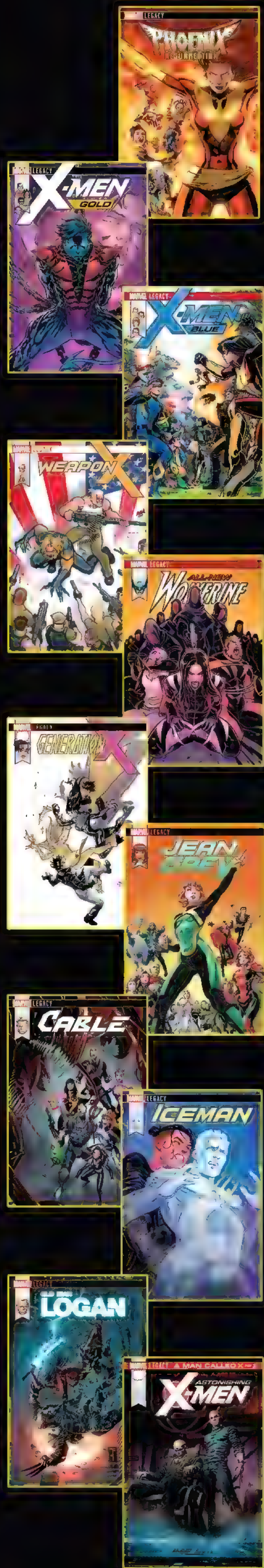
Who is the Scarlet Samurai?!
Issue #33!

✓ ASTONISHING X-MEN:

New arc! Charles Xavier is back...but is he the same man we once knew?
Issue #7!

Make sure to let us know your thoughts. You can email us at officex@marvel.com (add "OKAY TO PRINT" in the subject line). And don't forget about #XMENMONDAY on Twitter, where I'll post some tidbit from one or more of the books and address your questions. I can't guarantee an answer for everybody, but I'll do my darndest!

Mark Paniccia
Senior Editor
MARVEL COMICS
@MARKPANICCIA



CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER.

MUTANT.

BORN INTO A WEALTHY FAMILY OF BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS, CHARLES' TELEPATHIC MUTANT ABILITIES PRESENTED AT AN EARLY AGE.

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME ANSWERS I HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU YET, CHARLES! IT IS AS THOUGH YOU ARE ACTUALLY READING MY MIND!

OH, NO, SIR! THEY WERE JUST LUCKY GUESSES!

I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL! NO ONE MUST EVER SUSPECT THAT I CAN READ MINDS!

AT FIRST, HIS ABILITIES WERE OVERWHELMING.

BUT OVER TIME, HE LEARNED TO CONTROL THEM...

...AND LEARNED THAT OTHERS LIKE HIM WERE UNDER ATTACK.

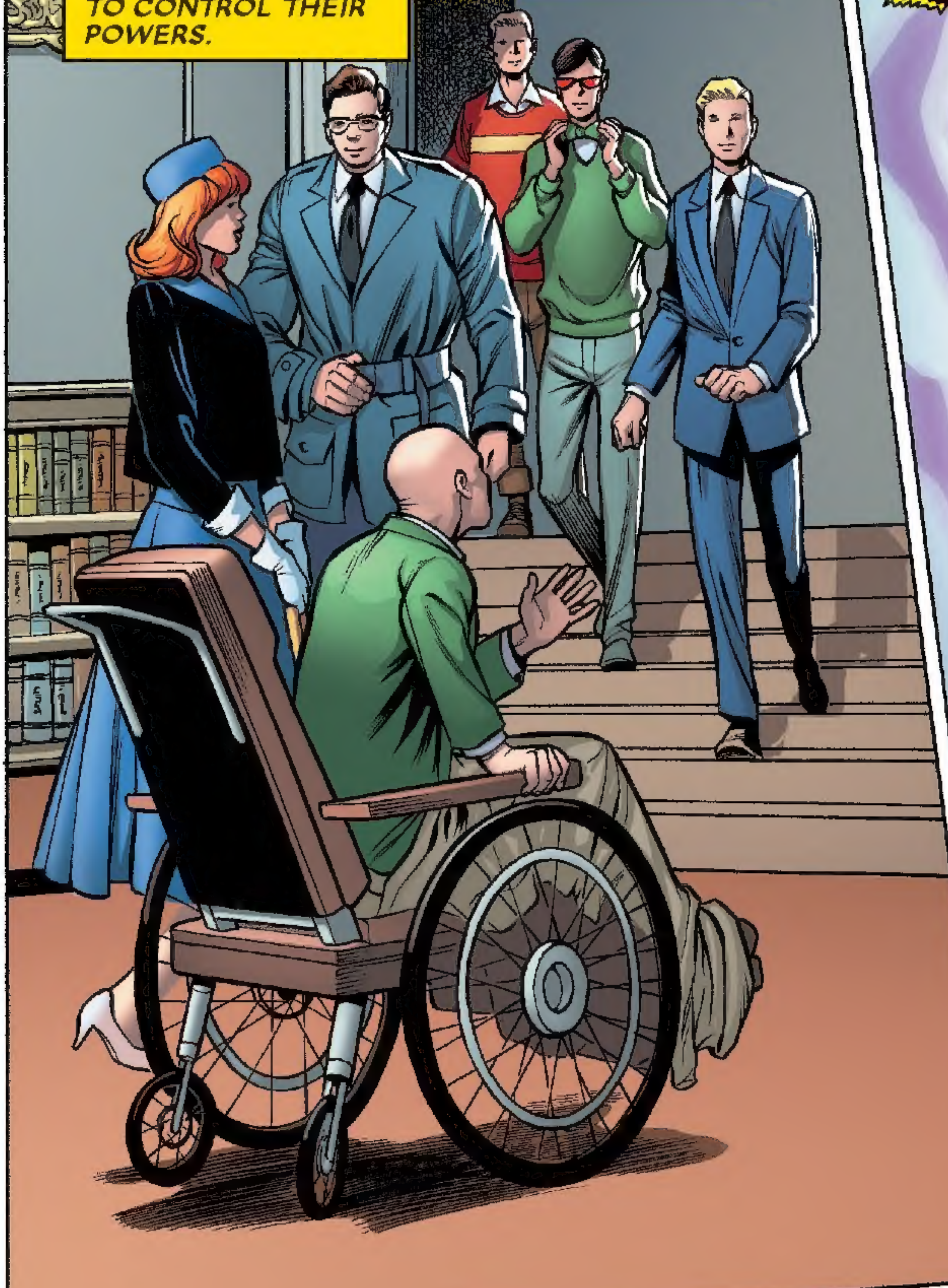
MUTIE SCUM!

USING HIS INHERITANCE, CHARLES FORMED...

...THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

CHARLES BROUGHT MUTANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO HIS HOME, WHERE HE TAUGHT THEM TO CONTROL THEIR POWERS.

HE BECAME PROFESSOR X, WHILE HIS FIRST STUDENTS BECAME...



...the X-MEN

...A GROUP OF MUTANTS PROTECTING A WORLD THAT FEARS AND HATES THEM.



OVER THE YEARS, MANY VERSIONS OF THE TEAM WERE FORMED AND DISBANDED.



IN THE END, CHARLES' DREAM OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE...

...COST HIM HIS LIFE... AT THE HANDS OF HIS VERY FIRST STUDENT, CYCLOPS.

BUT CHARLES HAS DIED BEFORE. AND HE SHALL RETURN AGAIN WITH THE HELP OF HIS FELLOW MUTANTS...



...THE ASTONISHING X-MEN



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VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER KATHLEEN WISNESKI ASST. EDITOR DARREN SHAN EDITOR

